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15 May 1947

*Wright*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CIG

Subject: Background Papers on Development of CIG

1. It is not commonly recognized that the conception of a centralized intelligence service for the United States Government has a relatively long history. The establishment of the National Intelligence Authority in January 1946 was the culmination of discussions and studies which had been going on for nearly two years. *da*

2. It has seemed to me that a certain amount of value might be derived from collecting in one place a selection of the most pertinent background papers. They will at least demonstrate that the idea of centralized intelligence is not novel, that the existing system is the outgrowth of searching studies on the part of exceedingly diverse participants possessing widely divergent motivations, and that therefore further new investigations might be expected to be entirely superfluous.

3. The papers in this collection are selected from more voluminous files which, although they have some bearing on the subject, provide either unnecessary duplications or make no real contribution to the development of the idea. Actually many of them are interesting for the sidelights they throw on the difficulties which had to be overcome in moving the plans along at all, but they would be apt to detract attention from the central idea had they been included.

4. There are two papers which have been omitted because they were not available in the files at my disposal. These two papers are JIC 239/5 and the amended JCS 1181/5 dated 19 September 1945. Presumably these can be obtained from the JCS. They should be included here because they present in almost final form the outline of the National Intelligence Authority and the CIG.

5. Mr. Houston has looked over this collection, and suggests that in the event of detailed legislative discussion of CIA the answers to many questions may be found here.

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